GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3519
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016
Resolution to Launch Negotiations
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether UN General Assembly Committee has adopted a resolution to launch negotiations next year on a new treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India remained absent on the resolution;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of India's stand on nuclear disarmament?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Yes. The 71st Session of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (October 2016) titled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations". Operative paragraph 8 of this resolution states "Decides to convene in 2017 a United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination;â€¦"

(c) & (d) India cast an abstention vote on this resolution. India considers the Conference on Disarmament as the appropriate forum for commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament and believes that progress on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament should remain an international priority.

(e) India remains committed to the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament.